GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:271
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2008
DISTRICT PLANNING COMMITTEES
Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided not to release any funds to those States who have failed to set up District Planning Committees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/approved to be taken by the Government to provide assistance to those States; and

(d) the total amount of funds released from Backward Region Grants Fund (BRGF) till December,2007?

Answer

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ(SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a)&(b): The Planning Commission has issued guidelines regarding district planning on 25/08/2006.The Planning Commission takes into account compliance with these guidelines in determining allocations to Annual State Plans. As per the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, these guidelines have also been adopted for the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) programme.Under these guidelines, participatory grassroots level planning is considered the sine qua non for the release of grants under the BRGF. The Panchayats and Municipalities are the implementation authorities under Programme. The plans prepared by the local bodies are to be consolidated by the District Planning Committees (DPCs), constituted in accordance with Article 243 ZD of the Constitution. Therefore, releases cannot be made to those districts that have not constituted DPCs.DPCs have not yet been constituted in the States of Gujarat, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.

(c): Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) has been subsumed into the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) Programme.Therefore, the BRGF Programme includes releases to the districts covered under RSVY, which have not claimed their total entitlement yet. These States are also entitled to capacity building grant for Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). Details of the releases made to the districts in the States during the current financial year are annexed.However,constitution of District Planning Committees (DPCs) is an essential pre condition for release of development grant under BRGF to these districts. All the States have repeatedly been requested during Conferences, meetings and correspondence at both Ministerial and official levels to constitute DPCs. Except Jharkhand, where elections to the Panchayati Raj Institutions have not been held due to prolonged litigation, all the States have reported some progress and it should be possible to complete the procedural formalities to constitute the DPCs.

(d): An amount of Rs. 2965 crore was released till December 2007. Further releases have been effected in January 2008 taking the total released to Rs.3201.56 crore.